

## **LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A fluid distribution system comprising:
  - a hollow pipe section having at least one bore extending longitudinally therethrough;
  - at least one longitudinal boss extending along the pipe section and positioned about the bore;
  - an end fitting comprising:
    - a hollow body configured to be received in the bore;
    - a shoulder extending radially from the body and configured to abut against an end surface of the pipe section;
    - at least one bolt hole extending through the shoulder and configured to align with the at least one longitudinal boss; and
    - at least one fastener extended through the at least one bolt hole and secured in the at least one boss; and
  - a secondary component configured for attachment to the end fitting, wherein the body has an outer diameter substantially equal to an inside diameter of the bore, and wherein the body has an outer surface with at least one circumferential groove configured to receive a circumferential seal member.
- 2-3. (Cancelled)
- 4 (Original) The fluid distribution system of claim 1 wherein the bore has a diameter and the shoulder has an outside diameter greater than the bore diameter.
5. (Original) The fluid distribution system of claim 1 wherein the shoulder has a first planar surface configured to abut against the end surface of the pipe section and a second planar surface opposite the first planar surface and configured to abut against the secondary component.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The fluid distribution system of claim 5~~ A fluid distribution system comprising:

a hollow pipe section having at least one bore extending longitudinally therethrough;  
at least one longitudinal boss extending along the pipe section and positioned about the bore;

an end fitting comprising:  
a hollow body configured to be received in the bore;  
a shoulder extending radially from the body and configured to abut against an end surface of the pipe section;

at least one bolt hole extending through the shoulder and configured to align with the at least one longitudinal boss; and

at least one fastener extended through the at least one bolt hole and secured in the at least one boss; and

a secondary component configured for attachment to the end fitting, wherein the shoulder has a first planar surface configured to abut against the end surface of the pipe section and a second planar surface opposite the first planar surface and configured to abut against the secondary component, and wherein the second planar surface has a circumferential groove configured to receive a seal member for sealing-against the secondary component.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The fluid distribution system of claim 1~~ A fluid distribution system comprising:

a hollow pipe section having at least one bore extending longitudinally therethrough;  
at least one longitudinal boss extending along the pipe section and positioned about the bore;

an end fitting comprising:  
a hollow body configured to be received in the bore;  
a shoulder extending radially from the body and configured to abut against an end surface of the pipe section;  
at least one bolt hole extending through the shoulder and configured to align with the at least one longitudinal boss; and  
at least one fastener extended through the at least one bolt hole and secured in the at least one boss; and

a secondary component configured for attachment to the end fitting, wherein the secondary component includes a secondary end fitting secured to a secondary hollow pipe section having at least one secondary bore extending longitudinally therethrough and at least one secondary longitudinal boss extending along the secondary pipe section and positioned about the secondary bore, the secondary end fitting comprising:

a secondary hollow body configured to be received in the secondary bore;  
a secondary shoulder extending radially from the secondary body and configured to abut against a secondary end surface of the secondary pipe section;  
at least one secondary bolt hole extending through the secondary shoulder and configured to align with the at least one secondary longitudinal boss;  
at least one secondary fastener extended through the at least one secondary bolt hole and secured in the at least one secondary boss; and  
means for securing the secondary shoulder to the end fitting shoulder.

8. (Original) The fluid distribution system of claim 7 wherein the means for securing the secondary shoulder to the end fitting shoulder includes at least one third bolt hole extending through the end fitting shoulder and aligned with at least one fourth bolt hole extending through the secondary end fitting shoulder and at least one third fastener secured within the at least one third and fourth bolt holes.

9. (Original) The fluid distribution system of claim 8 wherein the at least one third bolt hole is threaded.

10. (Original) The fluid distribution system of claim 8 wherein the at least one fourth bolt hole is threaded.

11. (Original) The fluid distribution system of claim 7 wherein the secondary shoulder has an end face directed toward the end fitting shoulder, the end face including a stand-off extending therefrom to maintain the secondary end fitting shoulder spaced from the end fitting at least one bolt hole and the end fitting shoulder spaced from the at least one secondary bolt hole.

12. (Previously Presented) The fluid distribution system of claim 1 wherein the secondary component includes a pipe portion with a second shoulder extending radially from the pipe portion.

13. (Previously Presented) A fluid distribution system comprising:  
a hollow pipe section having at least one bore extending longitudinally therethrough;  
at least one longitudinal boss extending along the pipe section and positioned about the bore;  
an end fitting comprising:  
a hollow body configured to be received in the bore;  
a shoulder extending radially from the body and configured to abut against an end surface of the pipe section;  
at least one bolt hole extending through the shoulder and configured to align with the at least one longitudinal boss; and  
at least one fastener extended through the at least one first bolt hole and secured in the at least one boss; and  
a secondary component configured for attachment to the end fitting, the secondary component including a pipe portion with a radial shoulder extending from the pipe section, wherein the shoulder includes at least one second bolt hole extending through the shoulder and aligned with at least one third bolt hole extending through the radial shoulder.

14. (Previously Presented) The fluid distribution system of claim 13 wherein the at least one second bolt hole is threaded.

15. (Previously Presented) The fluid distribution system of claim 14 wherein the at least one third bolt hole is threaded.

16. (Previously Presented) The fluid distribution system of claim 12 wherein the pipe portion includes at least two fluid paths, each fluid path terminating in the second shoulder.

17. (Previously Presented) The fluid distribution system of claim 12 wherein the pipe portion includes a hollow pipe bent at least 45 degrees and terminating in a third shoulder extending radially from the pipe portion.

18. (Original) The fluid distribution system of claim 12 wherein the pipe portion includes a smooth hollow pipe.

19. (Original) The fluid distribution system of claim 12 wherein the pipe portion includes a threaded hollow pipe.

20. (Original) The fluid distribution system of claim 1 wherein the secondary component includes a plate configured to cover the bore.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~The fluid distribution system of claim 20~~ A fluid distribution system comprising:

a hollow pipe section having at least one bore extending longitudinally therethrough;

at least one longitudinal boss extending along the pipe section and positioned about the bore;

an end fitting comprising:

a hollow body configured to be received in the bore;

a shoulder extending radially from the body and configured to abut against an end surface of the pipe section;

at least one bolt hole extending through the shoulder and configured to align with the at least one longitudinal boss; and

at least one fastener extended through the at least one bolt hole and secured in the at least one boss; and

a secondary component configured for attachment to the end fitting, wherein the secondary component includes a plate configured to cover the bore, and wherein the shoulder includes at least one second bolt hole extending through the shoulder and aligned with at least one third bolt hole extending through the plate.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~The fluid distribution system of claim 20~~ A fluid distribution system comprising:

a hollow pipe section having at least one bore extending longitudinally therethrough;  
at least one longitudinal boss extending along the pipe section and positioned about the bore,

an end fitting comprising:  
a hollow body configured to be received in the bore;  
a shoulder extending radially from the body and configured to abut against an end surface of the pipe section;  
at least one bolt hole extending through the shoulder and configured to align with the at least one longitudinal boss; and  
at least one fastener extended through the at least one bolt hole and secured in the at least one boss; and

a secondary component configured for attachment to the end fitting, wherein the secondary component includes a plate configured to cover the bore, and wherein the plate has at least one port therethrough.

23. (Original) The fluid distribution system of claim 22 wherein a connector is secured within the port.

24. (Original) The fluid distribution system of claim 23 wherein the connector has a valve positioned therein.

25. (Original) The fluid distribution system of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the at least one boss adjacent the end surface is threaded.

26. (Original) The fluid distribution system of claim 1 wherein the at least one fastener is self-tapping.



27. (Previously Presented) A fluid distribution system comprising:  
a hollow pipe section having at least one bore extending longitudinally therethrough;  
at least one longitudinal boss extending along the pipe section and positioned about the bore;

an end fitting comprising:  
a hollow body configured to be received in the bore;  
a shoulder extending radially from the body and configured to abut against an end surface of the pipe section;  
at least one bolt hole extending through the shoulder and configured to align with the at least one longitudinal boss; and  
at least one fastener extended through the at least one bolt hole and secured in the at least one boss; and  
a secondary component configured for attachment to the end fitting, wherein the hollow pipe section has an external surface and at least two opposed flanges are provided along the external surface to define a longitudinal receiving groove having a bottom surface.

28. (Original) The fluid distribution system of claim 27 wherein the bottom surface is a planar surface.

29. (Original) The fluid distribution system of claim 27 wherein each flange extends from a respective longitudinal boss.

30. (Original) The fluid distribution system of claim 27 wherein at least two longitudinal bosses are formed with an arc less than 360 degrees such that each arc terminates in a respective one of the flanges.

31. (Original) The fluid distribution system of claim 30 wherein each arc is about 260 degrees.

32. (Original) The fluid distribution system of claim 27 wherein each flange is spaced from and independent of the longitudinal bosses.

33-36. (Canceled)